

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are in the case. Claims 9-10, 13-15, and 17 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, for which indication the applicants thank the examiner. Claims 1-8, 11-12, 16, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 USC § 102 over USPA 2003/0061212 to Smith et al. Claims 2-11, 13, and 16-17 have been amended and claims 1 and 18-20 are hereby cancelled. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments, which are supported by the disclosure of the original claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 9-10, 13-15, and 17 are objected to as depending from rejected base claims. However, the office action states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten so as to not depend from a rejected base claim, and to contain all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have so amended these claims. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER §102


Claims 1-8, 11-12, 16, and 18-20 are rejected over Smith et al. Claims 1 and 18-20 have been canceled, and claims 2-8, 11-12, and 16 have been amended to depend from claims that are indicated as being allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-8, 11-12, and 16 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that a full and complete response to the office action is provided herein, and that the application is now fully in condition for allowance. Action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. In the event this response is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are required by this amendment, and have not otherwise been taken care of, such fees may be charged to deposit account 12-2355.

Sincerely,

LUEDEKA, NEELY & GRAHAM, P.C.

By: 

Rick Barnes, 39,596

2006.06.02